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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Rumania	REPORT	
SUBJECT	The Olga Bancic Cotton Mill in Pucioasa	DATE DISTR.	27 Sept. 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

1. The Olga Bancic Cotton Mill was built prior to 1940 and was part of a group of textile factories founded by Stan Rirescu. The group also included a cotton weaving mill, located four kilometers from Pucioasa in Branesti, which is now called the Constantin Ivanus Weaving Mill.
2. The Olga Bancic Mill is located on the left bank of the Ialomita River north of Pucioasa, a town of 7,000 inhabitants. Pucioasa (4506N-2525E) is about 20 kilometers north of Targoviste. The mill normally employs 1,200 workers, mostly women and girls, who work in three eight-hour shifts except for the Spun Yarn Section in which only two shifts are worked. Many employees work two consecutive eight-hour shifts to increase their earnings.
3. Monthly production is fixed at 200 tons of yarn, but often drops to 170-180 tons. A low of 140 tons was reached in 1953 due to a shortage of raw cotton, which is sometimes delivered irregularly. The yarn count runs 20/1 to 70/1 by the English count, which differs from the Soviet count.
4. Raw cotton comes from various sources. Half of the amount comes from the USSR and is of very uneven quality, sometimes very good and sometimes very poor. About 30 percent comes from Egypt and is of the best quality; 10 percent comes from India, and 10 percent is grown locally. All cotton received is processed, and no reserves are kept. Even if a small quantity is left over at the end of the month, it is immediately used up the next month. A monthly report is sent to the Ministry of Light Industry, which in turn reports to the State Planning Commission.
5. About 70 percent of the cotton yarn is sent to the Constantin Ivanus Weaving Mill in Branesti, and the remainder to Bucharest or to Pitesti, according to the orders received from the Cotton Directorate of the Ministry of Light Industry. Some shipments have been made by the Olga Bancic Mill to the USSR. The Constantin Ivanus Mill has also frequently used Polish yarns.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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6. Not more than six to seven percent of the workers are members of the Communist Party, but all of them skilled or unskilled, are trade union members. The last secretary of the Communist primary organization in the factory was Spiridon Popescu, who had worked there for many years. Ion Halaciuga, a Party member, is the chairman of the trade union. Andrei Mihai, formerly of the Texacom Factory in Bucharest, is director of the factory. The clerical staff is composed chiefly of Jews and Armenians who are all Party members.
7. About 60 percent of the workers suffer from tuberculosis. New employees, unless they have a natural immunity to the disease, are soon infected because of the dust-laden atmosphere in the factory. Tuberculosis was prevalent even in pre-Communist days and now, as in the past, factory management operates a farm which provides a pint of milk free to every worker.
8. The factory has an infirmary consisting of six beds which are always occupied. There is a shortage of drugs. The increase of hospital and sanatorium facilities under the Communist regime has not yet improved the health and sanitation of the workers. In 1953, between 80,000-100,000 workers were sent to sanatoriums for rest periods of up to two weeks, including the journey, although Communist propaganda claimed 400,000. Only 100 out of the 1,200 workers at the Olga Bancic Plant went to a sanatorium in 1954, and these were selected more on a political than a health basis. The sanatorium is not free, but costs 40-45 lei based on a monthly wage of 350 lei. Good care is taken of patients in health resorts, especially with regard to food, and those who can go there are benefitted.

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Comment: A 1952 report from another agency states that the Olga Bancic Plant at Pucioasa was established in 1936 under the supervision of Professor Cossasovici. All equipment installed was imported from Germany. The entire installation occupies an area of 10 hectares. The installation was reported to be entirely self-sufficient, including the following facilities for employees: hospital, concert hall and cinema, and cattle and poultry farms. The plant was confiscated by the Communists in 1948. Raw cotton for the products of the mill were imported chiefly from Pakistan, Egypt and the USSR.

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